










GEORGIA SUPREME COURT

									
	Carla McMillian	Charlie Bethel	Sarah Warren	John Ellington	Nels Peterson	David Nahmias	Michael P. Boggs	Harold Melton	Keith Blackwell
Confidence Score	Mild Republican	Strong Republican	Strong Republican	Indeterminate	Strong Republican	Mild Republican	Indeterminate	Mild Republican	Mild Republican
Opinion Partners									
Dissenting Minority									
Determining Majority									
Lone Dissenter									

SUMMARY

- ▶ Number of justices: **9**
- ▶ Number of cases: **347**
- ▶ Percentage of cases with a unanimous ruling: **96.3% (334)**
- ▶ Justice most often writing the majority opinion: **Justice John Ellington (38)**
- ▶ Per curiam decisions: **35**
- ▶ Concurring opinions: **12**
- ▶ Justice with most concurring opinions: **Justice Keith Blackwell (4)**
- ▶ Dissenting opinions: **11**
- ▶ Justice with most dissenting opinions: **Justice Charlie Bethel (3) and Justice Harold Melton (3)**

COURT CONTENTION

Opinion partners

In 2020, no two justices dissented together in two cases before the Georgia Supreme Court.

Dissenting minority

In 2020, the Georgia Supreme Court did not decide any cases by split decision.

Determining majority

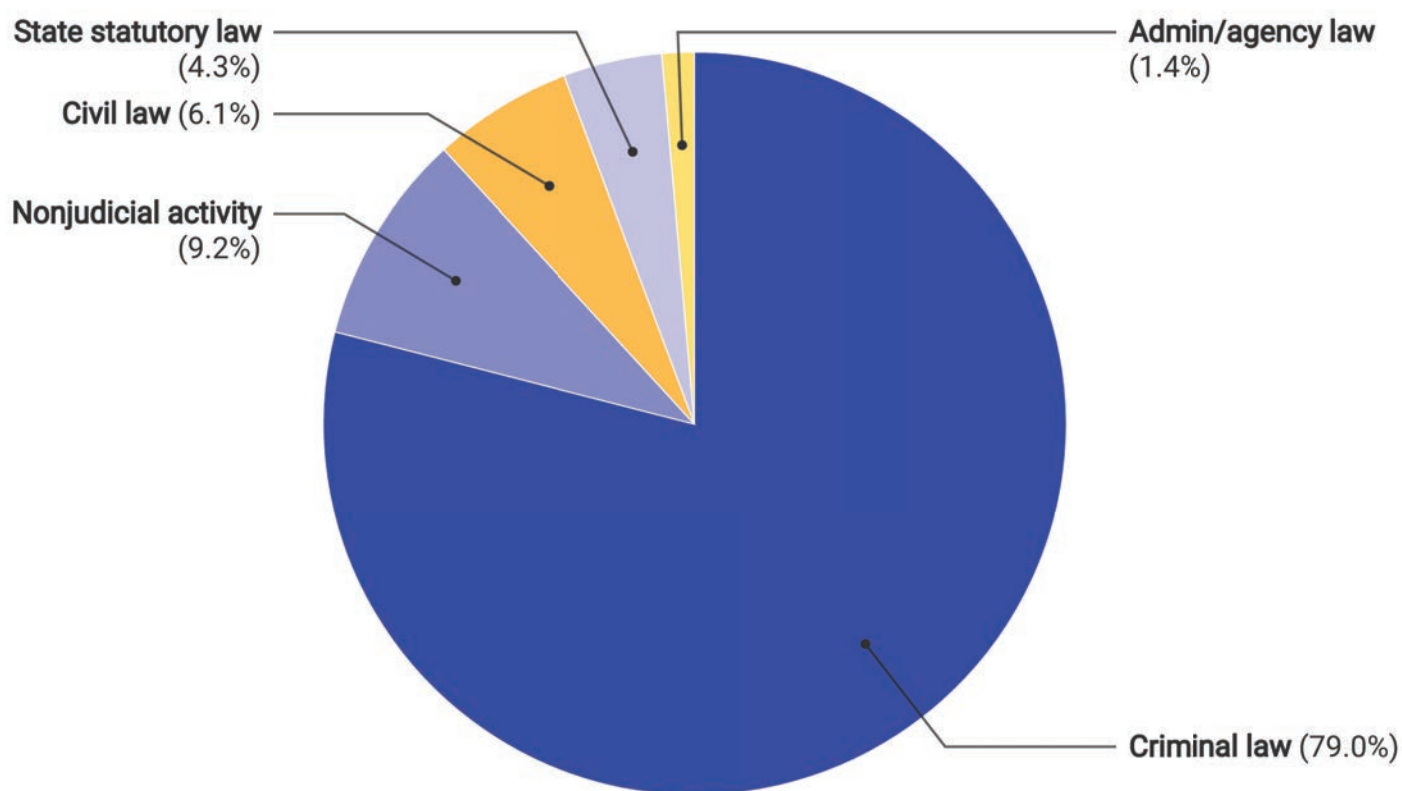
In 2020, the Georgia Supreme Court did not decide any cases by split decision.

Lone dissenter In 2020, there was a lone dissenter in four cases decided by the Georgia Supreme Court. No justice was a lone dissenter in more than one case.

COURT JURISDICTION

The 1983 Georgia Constitution gives the Georgia Supreme Court exclusive appellate jurisdiction over constitutional cases and election contest cases. The court also has general appellate jurisdiction over land title cases, will and equity cases, divorce and alimony cases, certified cases, death penalty cases, and writs of habeas corpus or certiorari. The court may also exercise jurisdiction over Georgia Court of Appeals cases found to be of great public importance.

Case types decided by Georgia Supreme Court, 2020



BALLOTPEDIA

The most common case category heard by the Georgia Supreme Court in 2020 was criminal law. Of the 347 cases it heard, 274 were criminal cases, or 79.0 percent of its total caseload for the year. A criminal case involves a final criminal appeal before the court of last resort.

The second most common cases that reached the supreme court were nonjudicial

activity cases. A case is considered nonjudicial activity if it does not involve a formal hearing and discussion before the court. The Georgia Supreme Court heard 32 nonjudicial activity cases in 2020, or 9.2 percent of its total caseload for the year.

The third most common cases that reached the court were civil cases. A civil case is one that involves a dispute between two parties, one of whom seeks reparations or damages. The Georgia Supreme Court heard 21 civil cases in 2020, or 6.1 percent of its total caseload for the year.